

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:  
storing data in a memory device;  
writing a pointer related to a location of the data to a known location;  
indicating the data has a protected status; and  
preventing a read of the pointer from the known location.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
returning a fixed value in response to a read request for the pointer.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the known location is a register in a memory controller.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
storing the location of the data in a descriptor list table,  
wherein the pointer indicates the location of the descriptor list table.
5. A device comprising:  
a first memory device to store a pointer to a descriptor list table;  
a second memory device to store an indicator of a protected status;  
and  
a control circuit to prevent a read of the pointer.
6. The device of claim 5, further comprising:  
an output circuit to generate a fixed output when the pointer has a protected status.
7. The device of claim 5, wherein the first memory device is a register in a memory controller.
8. A system comprising:  
a memory device;

a processor;

a memory controller coupled to the memory device and processor, the memory controller to store a pointer to a descriptor list table and to prevent a read of the pointer when the pointer is in a protected mode; and

an integrated audio controller coupled to the memory controller to process audio data.

9. The system of claim 8, further comprising:

a removable media drive coupled to the memory controller to read encrypted data.

10. The system of claim 9, further comprising:

a graphics device to display encrypted data from the removable media drive.

11. A device comprising:

means for receiving a request for a location of data;

means for determining a protected status of the data; and

means for returning a predetermined signal if the data has a protected status.

12. The device of claim 11, further comprising:

means for storing an indicator of the protected status.

13. The device of claim 11, further comprising:

means for returning a location of the data if the data has an unprotected status.

14. A machine readable medium having instructions stored therein which when executed cause a machine to perform a set of operations comprising:

receiving a request for descriptor table base address;

determining if the descriptor table base address register is set in a protected mode; and

returning a fixed value if the register is in the protected mode.

15. The machine readable medium of claim 14, having further instructions stored therein which when executed cause a machine to perform a set of operations further comprising:

storing an indicator of the protected mode.

16. The machine readable medium of claim 14, having further instructions stored therein which when executed cause a machine to perform a set of operations further comprising:

returning the descriptor table base address if the data is not in the protected mode.